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Culture of peace

Letter dated 27 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you in reference to the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in New York on 26 September 2018, on the theme "Upholding the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement: towards a culture of peace", on the sidelines of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

In this regard, and in accordance with established practice, I am pleased to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of the political declaration adopted at that time (see annex),* while respectfully requesting the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian
Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations
Special Presidential Commissioner for NAM Affairs

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the theme "Upholding the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement: towards a culture of peace"

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), gathered on 26 September 2018, on the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, undertook a review of the state of the international situation, particularly on the importance of upholding both the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as those that are at the core of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), with a view to effectively moving towards a culture of peace, and decided:

1. To reaffirm and underscore the Movement's abiding faith in and strong commitment to its founding principles, ideals and purposes, particularly in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order, as well as to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

2. To reaffirm the continued relevance, validity, and adherence to all principled positions and decisions of the Movement, particularly those contained in its Final Document, as adopted by the Ministers of the Movement during the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of Baku.

3. To further reaffirm the provisions of the Declaration of Havana on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the Current International Juncture (2006), as well as the Declaration of Island of Margarita (2016) and the Declaration of Baku (2018).

4. To reaffirm that the United Nations, its Charter, and international law remain indispensable tools and central in the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation.

5. To uphold the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State or Nation; to take effective measures for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace; to defend, promote, and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; to refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force, including aggressive military exercises against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; to develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in their struggle against foreign occupation; to achieve international cooperation based on solidarity among peoples and governments in solving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and to promote and encourage the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, particularly as we observe the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6. To reaffirm that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles and rules of international law are indispensable in preserving and promoting peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, and human rights for all. In this context, UN Member States, including those of the Security

Council, are called to renew their commitment to respect, defend, preserve, and promote the UN Charter and international law, with the aim of making further progress to achieving full respect for international law.

7. To underline that the strict observance of the principles of international law and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is of the utmost importance for the maintenance of international peace and security, and to reaffirm that NAM Member States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and inviolability of international borders of Member States; and remain committed to support and promote these principles of international law. Accordingly, they reaffirm their determination to refrain from any action against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of any State or inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

8. To reiterate their concern over the increasing tendency and deepening by certain States to resort to unilateralism, arbitrariness and unilaterally imposed measures, non-fulfillment of the commitments and obligations assumed under the relevant international legally binding instruments especially on weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons treaties, terrorism, conflicts, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the use of double standards in international relations, the continuing failure and unwillingness of the majority of the developed countries to fulfill their commitments in the economic and social fields.

9. To reiterate their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the UN Charter and international law, and further reiterated its commitment to promoting, preserving and strengthening multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process through the UN, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law, with the aim of creating a just and equitable world order and global democratic governance.

10. To oppose unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States which can lead to the erosion and violation of the UN Charter, international law and human rights, the use and threat of use of force, and pressure and coercive measures as a means to achieving their national policy objectives.

11. To refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries — threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment — and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States; and in this regard, oppose and condemn these measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other UN organs; request States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

12. To oppose all attempts to impose on any State any particular model of political, economic, legal or cultural system, which may lead to global instability and weaken the security of States and their peoples.

13. To reaffirm that solidarity, the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, is a broad concept encompassing the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformative objectives of

equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples.

14. To continue to maintain, strengthen, and manifest the unity and solidarity among the membership of the Movement, particularly with those Non-Aligned Countries whose peoples are living under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation, or living in poverty or suffering ill-health, or victims of natural disasters, as well as those experiencing external threats of use of force, acts of aggression or unilateral coercive measures, including sanctions.

15. To reaffirm their determination that if any Member of the Movement suffers harm, whether this is economic, political or military in nature, or in terms of its security, as well as from the politicization of human rights, or if a Member suffers harm as a result of the imposition of unilateral sanctions or embargos, the Movement should express its solidarity with the affected country through the provision of political, moral, material and other forms of assistance. To this end, they will continue to review the Movement's existing mechanisms and explore new mechanisms for rendering such assistance, if necessary.

16. To reaffirm and stress their principled positions concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, and on the non-use or threat of use of force, including through the promotion of political understanding and constructive dialogue among States, on the basis of mutual respect.

17. To promote a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter, and full realization of all human rights, including the right to development.

18. To promote and preserve dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which would contribute towards peace and security, taking into account the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and the Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations.

19. To continue working towards the promotion of dialogue and understanding among all civilizations, cultures and religions and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to prevent cultural homogenization and domination or incitement to hatred and discrimination, combat defamation of religions and develop better ways for promoting tolerance, respect for and protection of the freedom of religion and belief, including the right to preserve one's cultural identity.

20. To reaffirm their commitment to enhancing the dialogue among civilizations and religions, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, promoting respect for diversity based on justice, fraternity and equality, and to oppose all attempts of uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of political, economic, social, legal or cultural systems, and to promote dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security, stability, sustainable development and promotion of human rights.

21. To reaffirm their determination to advance in the enhancement of the status and role of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as an anti-war peace-loving force, including through its instrumentalization as a Front for World Peace, and in favor, in particular,

of the respect of the right to life and the inalienable right of the peoples to their self-determination and independence.

22. To promote and work towards creating a multi-polar world through the strengthening of multilateralism through the UN and the multilateral processes, which are indispensable in promoting and preserving the interests of Non-Aligned Countries.

23. To underline the initiatives undertaken by Member States of the Movement for promoting peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity, inter alia, in line with the provisions of resolution 72/130 of 8 December 2017, by which the General Assembly of the United Nations encourages the promotion of the reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, faith leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals.

24. To acknowledge initiatives by NAM Member States for promoting peace based on high ethical values, justice and friendship in order to denounce acts of aggression and to reinforce and promote stability, tranquility and durable peace throughout the world, bearing in mind that the current challenges faced by the international community need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through an inclusive multilateralism.

25. To initiate further vigorous, transparent and inclusive initiatives to achieve the realization of multilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights for all and the rule of law, including through enhancing the Movement's unity, solidarity and cohesiveness on issues of collective concern and interests, with the aim of shaping the multilateral agenda to embrace development as a fundamental priority, which should take into account the need for developing and developed countries and international institutions to intensify partnerships and coordinate their efforts and resources to effectively address all imbalances in the global agenda.

26. To continue to enhance the efforts of the NAM members in promoting and preserving multilateralism, the culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, religions, and cultures, through various activities, including international and regional conferences and fora. In this regard, they agreed to initiate consultations among the Member States and Movement, to be followed by consultations with the wider membership of the United Nations, with a view to declare 24 April — day of the conclusion of the Afro-Asian Conference of Bandung (1955) — as the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.

New York, 26 September 2018